

FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP

Subirrigated Loamy/Sandy

FSG No.: G034B2031CO
Major Land Resource Area: 034B - Warm Central Desertic Basins Plateaus
Land Resource Unit 34B-2: 10-12 inches precipitation zone

PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES

The land resource area 34B-2 occurs in Northeastern Utah and Western Colorado. Utah Counties included in this area are Carbon, Emery, Grand, Duchesne and Uintah. Colorado counties included in this area are Mesa, Delta, Montrose, Garfield, Rio Blanco and Moffat.

The soils in this group are found on flood plains.

| | <u>Minimum</u> | <u>Maximum</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Elevation (feet): | 4000 | 7000 |
| Slope (percent): | 0 | 15 |
| Flooding: | | |
| Frequency: | Occasional | Occasional |
| Duration: | Very Long | Very Long |
| Ponding: | | |
| Depth (inches): | | |
| Frequency: | None | None |
| Duration: | None | None |
| Runoff Class: | Low | Low |

CLIMATIC FEATURES

The climate for this land resource area is considered arid or semi arid. The yearly total annual precipitation for this resource area ranges from 10-12 inches. Following are data for two climate stations within this precipitation zone. For data from a climate station nearer to your location, access the national Water and Climate Center at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>, or visit your local Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office.

| Temperature Data Related to Growth of Plants | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|------------------|------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| County/ State | Climate Station | Elevation (Feet) | Growing Degree-Day Units † | | Growing Season | | | | | |
| | | | | | Length of period | | Average date of 32° F | | Average date of 28° F | |
| | | | Base 50°F | Base 40°F | 32°F | 28°F | Last frost in Spring | First Frost in Fall | Last Killing freeze in Spring | First Killing freeze in Fall |
| Moffat/ CO | Dinosaur Nat.Mnt. | 5920 | 2555 | 4524 | 97 | 122 | June 14 | Sep. 10 | June 2 | Sep. 21 |
| Garfield/ CO | Rifle | 5320 | 2330 | 4372 | 95 | 123 | June 13 | Sep. 8 | May 20 | Sep. 17 |

† **Growing Degree-Day Units** are computed as the difference between the daily average temperature and the base temperature. (Daily Average Temperature - Base Temperature) One unit is accumulated for each degree Fahrenheit the average temperature is above the base temperature. Negative numbers are discarded.

Example: If the day's high temperature was 95 and the low temperature was 55, the base 50 heating degree-day units is $[(95 + 55) / 2] - 50 = 25$. This is done for each day of the month and summed.

| Precipitation and Temperature, Monthly and Annual Average | | | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Month | Precipitation (inches) | | Temperature (°F) | |
| | Dinosaur Station | Rifle Station* | Dinosaur Station | Rifle Station |
| January | 0.68 | 0.88 | 20.2 | 22.0 |
| February | 0.53 | 0.74 | 25.8 | 30.0 |
| March | 1.01 | 0.91 | 36.5 | 38.6 |
| April | 1.07 | 0.96 | 45.8 | 47.0 |
| May | 1.28 | 1.06 | 55.4 | 55.6 |
| June | 1.22 | 0.92 | 65.7 | 64.3 |
| July | 1.09 | 1.02 | 73.1 | 70.6 |
| August | 0.80 | 1.06 | 70.8 | 68.7 |
| September | 1.11 | 1.20 | 61.1 | 60.1 |
| October | 1.46 | 1.38 | 48.8 | 48.8 |
| November | 0.77 | 1.01 | 34.5 | 36.8 |
| December | 0.74 | 1.15 | 22.6 | 25.2 |
| Annual Average | 11.76 | 12.27 | 46.7 | 47.3 |
| *Note: Rifle station is borderline between land resource area B2 (10-12 inches precipitation) and B3 (12-14 inches precipitation). However, the vegetation near Rifle is more representative for B2. | | | | |

| Climate Station | Location | From | To |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------|------|
| CO2286 | Dinosaur Natl. Monument | 1965 | 1990 |
| CO7031 | Rifle | 1961 | 1990 |

SOIL PROPERTIES

This group consists of very deep, somewhat poorly drained, moderately coarse to moderately fine textured soils. The Available water capacity is low, and permeability is moderate.

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| Drainage Class: | Somewhat poorly drained | To | Somewhat poorly drained |
| Permeability Class: (0 - 40 inches) | Moderate | To | Moderate |
| Frost Action Class: | Moderate | To | Moderate |

| | <u>Minimum</u> | <u>Maximum</u> |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Depth: | 60 | >60 |
| Organic Matter (percent): (surface layer) | 1.0 | 2.0 |
| Electrical Conductivity (mmhos/cm): (0 - 24 inches) | 0 | 4 |
| Sodium Absorption Ratio: (0 - 12 inches) | 0 | 5 |
| Soil Reaction (1:1) Water (pH): (0 - 12 inches) | 7.9 | 8.4 |
| Available Water Capacity (inches): (0 - 60 inches) | 3 | 6 |
| Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (percent): (0 - 12 inches) | 0 | 5 |

ADAPTED SPECIES LIST

The followings forage species are adapted to grow on the soils in this group. Additional information concerning plant characteristics of a number of the listed species as well as individual cultivars of many of these species can be accessed at the following web site: <http://plants.usda.gov/>

| Cool Season Grasses | Plant Symbol | Dryland | Irrigated |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Altai wildrye | LEYMU | NS | F |
| Canada wildrye | ELCA4 | NS | F |
| Creeping meadow foxtail | ALAR | NS | G |
| Intermediate wheatgrass | THIN6 | NS | F |
| Kentucky bluegrass | POPRP2 | NS | F |
| Meadow brome | BRBI | NS | F |
| Meadow foxtail | ALPR3 | NS | G |
| Newhy hybrid wheatgrass | ELHO | NS | F |
| Pubescent wheatgrass | THIN6 | NS | F |
| Russian wildrye | PSJU3 | F | F |
| Slender wheatgrass | ELTRS | NS | F |
| Smooth brome | BRINI2 | NS | F |
| Streambank wheatgrass | ELLA3 | F | NS |
| Tall fescue | LOAR10 | NS | F |
| Tall wheatgrass | THPO | NS | F |
| Thickspike wheatgrass | ELLAR | F | NS |
| Timothy | PHPR3 | NS | F |
| Warm Season Grasses | Plant Symbol | Dryland | Irrigated |
| Alkali sacaton | SPAI | F | F |
| Inland saltgrass | DISP | NS | G |
| Switchgrass | PAVIV | NS | F |
| Legumes | Plant Symbol | Dryland | Irrigated |
| Alsike clover | TRHYE8 | NS | G |
| Birdsfoot trefoil | LOCO | NS | F |
| Cicer milkvetch | ASCI | NS | F |
| Strawberry Clover | TRFR2 | NS | G |
| White clover | TRRE3 | NS | F |
| Yellow sweetclover | MEOF | NS | F |
| Other Perennial Forbs | Plant Symbol | Dryland | Irrigated |
| Small Burnet | SAMI3 | F | F |

G - Good adaptation for forage production on this group of soils in this MLRA

F - Fair Adaptation but will produce at its highest potential

NS - Species is not suited or adapted to the site and should not be planted

PRODUCTION ESTIMATES

Production estimates listed here should only be used for making general management recommendations. On site production information should always be used for making detailed planning and management recommendations.

Listed below are low and high production estimates for the more commonly grown forages for this group. The high forage production estimates are based on dense, vigorous stands of climatically adapted, superior performing cultivars. Stands are properly fertilized to obtain high yields. Pest infestations are kept below economic thresholds. Mechanical harvests are managed to maintain stand life by cutting at appropriate stages of maturity and harvest intervals. Optimum beginning and ending grazing heights are adhered to, if stands are grazed. Adequate time is allowed for plant recovery before entering winter dormancy under both harvest regimes.

These production estimates represent total annual above ground plant production on an air-dry-matter basis. Production estimates for hay and grazing can be calculated from these numbers by multiplying them by a harvest efficiency factor. Seventy- percent harvest efficiency is commonly used when converting to hay yields. Pasture harvest efficiency depends upon the grazing management system applied and usually ranges from 25 to 50 percent efficiency.

| Forage Crop | Dryland | | Irrigated | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| | Production Range (lb/ac) | | Production Range (lb/ac) | |
| | Low | High | Low | High |
| Alkali sacaton | 800 | 1200 | 4600 | 8600 |
| Alsike clover | NS | NS | 4300 | 7100 |
| Altai wildrye | NS* | NS | 2900 | 9300 |
| Birdsfoot trefoil | NS | NS | 4571 | 9100 |
| Canada wildrye | NS | NS | 5000 | 8600 |
| Cicer milkvetch | NS | NS | 4300 | 7800 |
| Creeping meadow foxtail | NS | NS | 6100 | 12300 |
| Inland saltgrass | NS | NS | 2600 | 5000 |
| Intermediate wheatgrass | NS | NS | 5000 | 10700 |
| Kentucky bluegrass | NS | NS | 3600 | 6400 |
| Meadow brome | NS | NS | 5000 | 9600 |
| Meadow foxtail | NS | NS | 6000 | 12300 |
| Newhy hybrid wheatgrass | NS | NS | 4800 | 9300 |
| Pubescent wheatgrass | NS | NS | 5400 | 9300 |
| Russian wildrye | 650 | 1100 | 5000 | 10000 |
| Slender wheatgrass | NS | NS | 4300 | 8600 |
| Small burnet | 600 | 1000 | 1100 | 2100 |
| Smooth brome | NS | NS | 3600 | 7900 |
| Streambank wheatgrass | 600 | 1000 | NS | NS |
| Switchgrass | NS | NS | 5700 | 10000 |
| Tall fescue | NS | NS | 6400 | 11400 |
| Tall wheatgrass | NS | NS | 5700 | 10000 |
| Thickspike wheatgrass | 600 | 1000 | NS | NS |
| Timothy | NS | NS | 2900 | 8600 |
| White clover | NS | NS | 4300 | 7100 |
| Yellow sweetclover | NS | NS | 5700 | 9300 |

*NS = not suited

FORAGE GROWTH CURVES

Growth Curve Number: CO1231
Growth Curve Name: Cool Season Grasses
Growth Curve Description: Grand Valley, Irrigated Pasture
Percent Production by Month:

| <u>Jan</u> | <u>Feb</u> | <u>Mar</u> | <u>Apr</u> | <u>May</u> | <u>Jun</u> | <u>Jul</u> | <u>Aug</u> | <u>Sep</u> | <u>Oct</u> | <u>Nov</u> | <u>Dec</u> |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 30 | 30 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 5 | 0 | 0 |

Growth Curve Number: CO1232
Growth Curve Name: Warm-Season Grasses
Growth Curve Description: Grand Valley, Irrigated Pasture
Percent Production by Month:

| <u>Jan</u> | <u>Feb</u> | <u>Mar</u> | <u>Apr</u> | <u>May</u> | <u>Jun</u> | <u>Jul</u> | <u>Aug</u> | <u>Sep</u> | <u>Oct</u> | <u>Nov</u> | <u>Dec</u> |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 20 | 40 | 25 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |

SOIL LIMITATIONS

Water Table - The soils in this group have a deep to shallow seasonal high water table (18-48 inches). These fluctuating water tables can adversely affect plant growth and production.

Soil Compaction - These soils are susceptible to compaction, especially if grazed or hayed when the topsoil is too wet. Soil compaction can reduce forage production.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Water Table - To insure forage production, use only species adapted to this forage suitability group.

Soil Compaction - Defer grazing or delay haying when the topsoil is wet to minimize the effects of soil compaction and maintain a healthy forage stand. Allow the soil to dry to field capacity before entering forage stand with machinery or livestock.

FSG DOCUMENTATION

Similar FSGs:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| FSG ID | FSG Narrative |
| G034B2017CO | Loamy soils are similar; however, do not have water tables at 18-48 inches. |

References:

United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. Land Resource Regions and Major Land Resource Areas of The United States. Agriculture Handbook 296. Washington, D.C.

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. National Water and Climate Center. <http://www.wwc.nrcs.usda.gov/>

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Official Soil Series Descriptions. <http://soils.usda.gov/classification/main.htm>

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 1997. National Range and Pasture Handbook. Grazing Lands Technology Institute.

Brummer, J.E., C.H., Pearson, and J. J. Johnson. 2000. Colorado Forage Research 1999. Alfalfa, Irrigated Pastures and Mountain Meadows. Colorado State University, Agricultural Experiment Station, Technical Report TR00-6.

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United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. The PLANTS database. 2002. <http://plants.usda.gov/>.

Personal Communication from various Technical Specialists from Colorado Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Cooley, A.W., C.H., Pearson and J. Brummer. Intermountain Grass and Legume Forage Production Manual. Colorado State University Cooperative Extension.

Montana State University. 2000. Montana Interagency plant Materials Handbook for Forage Production, Conservation, Reclamation, and Wildlife. MSU Extension Service EB 69.

STATE CORRELATION:

This site has been correlated with the following states: UT

FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP APPROVAL:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Original Author: | Manuel Rosales-I. |
| Original Date: | April 17, 2003 |
| Approval by: | James L. Sharkoff, State Conservation Agronomist |
| Approval Date: | June 2, 2003 |
| Technical Advisors: | Charlie Holcomb, Robert Killian, Dennis Gorsett, John Murray, David Dearstyne, James Sharkoff, Herman Garcia, Bob Rayer, Jeff Burwell, Calvin Pearson, Larry Ellicott, Steve Park, Leland Sasser, Jim Brown. |